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## SOCIOLOGICAL NOTES.

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[The editor of this department is glad to receive notes on all topics of interest to sociologists and persons working along sociological lines in the broadest acceptance of the term. It is not the purpose of these columns to define the boundaries of sociology, but rather to group in one place for the convenience of members of the Academy available bits of information on the subject that would otherwise be scattered throughout various departments of the ANNALS. The usefulness of this department will naturally depend largely on the measure of co-operation accorded the editor by other members of the Academy.]

Among those who have already indicated their interest and willingness to contribute are such well-known workers along sociological lines as Professor F. H. Giddings (Columbia College), Professor W. F. Willcox (Cornell University), Dr. John Graham Brooks (Cambridge, Mass.), Dr. E. R. Gould (Chicago University), Mr. John Koren (Boston), Hon. Carroll D. Wright (Washington, D. C.), Professor E. Cheysson (Paris), Mr. Robert D. McGonnigle (Pittsburgh, Pa.), President John H. Finley (Knox College), Professor D. R. Dewey (Boston), Rev. Dr. L. T. Chamberlain (New York), Dr. Wm. H. Tolman (New York), Dr. D. I. Green (Hartford), Mr. Robert Donald (London), Sig. Giuseppe Fiamingo (Rome), Dr. Georg Simmel (Berlin), Miss Emily Green Balch (Jamaica Plains, Mass.), Miss M. E. Richmond (Baltimore, Md.), and others.]

**Sociological Theory: Method**—It is interesting to note a tendency in German thought respecting the much-vexed problems of social methodology as expressed in a communication from Professor Dr. v. Mayr in his comments on that remarkable book by Otto Ammon, entitled, "*Die Gesellschaftsordnung und ihre natürlichen Grundlagen*,"\* which were recently published in the *Allgemeines Statistisches Archiv*. His words seem to indicate that the German scientific world is not altogether satisfied with the biological analogies that sociologists have introduced into the discussion of social phenomena. He says: "When I read the announcement of this book, I expected from the author, who was well known for his able statistical studies, a work dealing with the basis of social organization, as founded on the results of statistics. I could not think that the author would wander in the anti-statistical, but to-day much beloved sociological method of treatment which lives so largely on biological analogies. A cursory view of the book showed that the author had held himself free from the ordinary fanciful pictures (*Phantasiegebilden*) of his sociological colleagues. A more careful reading of the book showed that the fundamental conception of the author rested on the ground of exact observation of social conditions and events, but that the

\* "*Entwurf einer Sozial-Anthropologie zum Gebrauch für alle Gebildeten, die sich mit sozialen Fragen befassen.*" Pp. 408. Jena: G. Fischer, 1895.

positive material which he had used was partially unreliable, and, to some extent, did not rest on real and original observations. The importance of the book, which is remarkably fresh and logical, lies rather in its suggestiveness than in any solution of the social question of which it treats.

"The theory of the author consists in the application of the law of natural selection to the formation of social conditions." Professor Mayr goes on to speak of the peculiar mixture of optimism and pessimism that one finds in Ammon's conclusions. Ammon is optimistic, to the extent of being severe, for instance, in his treatment of existing inequality in our social organization and in the emphasis which he lays on the different degrees of ability, manifested by different classes of society, as inborn qualities, and again where he accepts the small sum of one hundred marks as the minimum of existence. As to the statistical side of this work, which Professor Mayr is very competent to discuss, he criticises very sharply the use of curves, which he says are "partly fanciful pictures and must in part be designated, when taken singly, as incorrect and, in any event, in no wise representing the general phenomena of society." In the first place Professor Mayr believes that the statistical material on which these curves rest is by far too insufficient a basis for mathematical calculation and is capable of too easy coloring that reflects the position of the author. Then again he objects to the comparisons made between two or more of these curves, which are apt to lead to exaggerated conclusions. Again, to quote Professor Mayr's words, he says: "In general I have received the impression as though Ammon found it necessary to treat statistically that which has not yet been determined, or, indeed, scarcely surmised, as if it was in the realm of indisputable fact. Here I include the explanation which he makes in the remarkable section on the stream of population and the extinction of the higher classes. In particular the assertion that, within two generations, on the average, the vitality of those families in high positions is exhausted. Also in the section on Malthus and over-population is to be found a certain disposition on the part of the author to treat statistically as fact that which cannot yet be determined. On the other side, I will not deny that it is possible for the book to exert a healthy, stimulating, reactionary influence on those specialists who, perhaps, are at times too fearful of results. In this sense Mr. Ammon's book will be useful to the statistician, as it is for the student of social science . . . and in general one gets the impression that the book has led him to the consideration of things to which, perhaps, he would not otherwise have had his attention called."

*Medico-Legal Congress of 1895.*—The Congress of the Medico-Legal Society, which met in New York City early in September, brought together a number of leading specialists in medical science and those versed in legal knowledge. While it was intended primarily for students of medical jurisprudence, one of the subdivisions of the department of Psychology and Psychological Medicine, was devoted to Sociology and Criminology, and many of the papers were of a character that will prove useful sources of information to all students of social phenomena. Several papers were devoted to the treatment of insanity, touching on its social aspects. Much discussion was given to the treatment of inebriates. "Suicide Considered as a Mental Epidemic," was discussed by Dr. Forbes Winslow, of London. Dr. Havelock Ellis, who is well known for his book on "The Criminal," contributed a paper to the sociological section. Moritz Ellinger discussed the topic, "Sociology and Criminology, Growths of Modern Civilization." "The Legal Aspects of Hypnotism," and "The Legal Status and Evolution of Woman," were topics that gave rise to much discussion.

Information as to the bulletins of the congress and reports of its proceedings can be had from Clark Bell, Esq., Secretary, 57 Broadway, New York City.

**Social Settlements.**—*Kingsley House, Pittsburgh, Pa.* The Second Annual Report of the Kingsley House Association\*, presented on June 19, 1895, has appeared in print, and shows a marked increase in the amount of social work attempted and the enlargement of the scope of its work.

A kitchen garden has been started this year to teach house work by means of miniature house-keeping utensils. The number of clubs is greater, and these, together with the six classes which were carried on and constituted a new feature of this year's work, are encouraging signs of a healthy development, and lead us to expect substantial results from settlement work.

**Social Reform in Large Cities.**—The reform movement which has made such rapid progress of late in dealing with the problems of municipal administration, is rapidly spreading to some of the larger social problems that exist in all our large cities. These two lines of reform work are necessarily so intimately connected that it was impossible for a "revival" to take place within the one and not to be felt within the other. Perhaps the first visible signs of awakened interest in the social problems in any community are apt to be due to an intensified spirit of civic responsibility. Reform clubs and

\* "Second Annual Report of the Kingsley House Association," No. 1707 and 1709 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa.

other organizations which strive after this end, are multiplying in all our cities both large and small. Their experience, especially when they come in contact with any definite social evil which they attempt to remove, is singularly uniform. Much good, therefore, can be done if those who are engaged in these movements will take the trouble to publish the detailed results of their efforts, and a detailed statement of the methods pursued, for the benefit of others.

The Civic Federation of Chicago is a good illustration of the crystallized form in which an awakened civic life in that city has found expression. Professor A. W. Small has given a good description of its organization in the first number of the *American Journal of Sociology*.<sup>\*</sup> Such pieces of work are of greater practical utility to those engaged in active reform work than a goodly amount of theorizing and general suggestions can possibly be. The results of a similar and more restricted piece of reform work have lately been published by the American Academy of Political and Social Science.<sup>†</sup> Much labor can be saved those who are leading in these reform movements if they are careful to study the experience of others, and they in turn can contribute most largely to further efforts by giving the results of their own experience.

**Charities.**—The legislation of our various States in behalf of the poor has been so different in character, and in most of them there has been so little attempt to codify these laws, that the public officials themselves are at times embarrassed and at a loss to know the exact legal bearings of the questions that come before them. In Pennsylvania, for example, a few years ago a committee of the Legislature was appointed and authorized to study the poor laws of that State and see if they could possibly be reduced, simplified and placed on some unified basis. This committee found the task so severe a one that they gave up the problem without making public any results of their efforts. It is no wonder, therefore, that the student of pauperism is often bewildered if he approaches this mass of more or less conflicting legislation, and especially if he tries to make any comparison between the practice in different States, or tries to get at anything that might be termed the American Poor Law.

Dr. John Cummings has recently contributed to the publications of the American Economic Association ‡ a study of the poor laws of two

<sup>\*</sup> July, 1895.

<sup>†</sup> "The Story of a Woman's Municipal Campaign." Edited by Mrs. Talcott Williams. Publication No 150. Price 50 cents.

<sup>‡</sup> "Poor Laws of Massachusetts and New York," with Appendices containing the United States Immigration and Contract Labor Laws, by JOHN CUMMINGS, Ph. D. Vol. X, No. 4, July, 1895. Pp. 135. Price 75 cents.

States. Although these States are geographically very close to each other, their practice in poor law administration has been radically different. He selects, therefore, Massachusetts and New York as types. Their experience, he maintains, has been that of the great majority of States which have followed one or the other of these two in constructing its poor law system, and in the study of the principles on which the legislation of these two States rests we may trace the basis of the American Poor Law and its relation to the English Poor Law, of which it has been an outgrowth. The value of this study is still further enhanced by the fact that there has been much conflict between Massachusetts and New York on fundamental principles, arising from widely different laws of settlement and State responsibility. The outcome of this conflict in the various single cases is instructive as testimony to the relative value of the respective systems.

*Conference of Charities and Correction.*—The *Charities Review* devoted its June number, which appeared late on this account, to a very full report of the addresses, subjects and discussions in the Charity Organization Section of the National Conference of Charities and Correction, held at New Haven last May. There is probably nothing in these pages that will not appear in the published proceedings of the Conference, but all persons interested in the question of friendly visiting and extending of individual help and advice to the poor, the improvement of their dwellings, the promotion of better sanitary conditions in the poor districts of large cities, etc., will find here, within small space and at the moderate cost of twenty cents, a vast amount of useful information contributed by the leading actual workers in this line of social effort.

*Detroit Plan for the Cultivation of Waste Land.*—A report from Denver states that the Pingree potato farm plan, tried this year for the first time, has been a success. The plan was not put into execution until a month after the beginning of the season, and yet the results have been so satisfactory to those in charge that it will be carried out on a larger scale and begun in ample time next year. The work in Denver originated with some charitable ladies of the city, assisted by Chairman Wells of the County Commissioners, Mr. S. L. Holzman, and others interested in the problem of caring for the poor and unemployed.

Mr. Wilson made an offer of the use of his land in North Denver. The problem of water for irrigation made the extent of the enterprise necessarily limited at this time, and the land was divided into half-acre tracts and prepared for cultivation. The seed was donated, and about fifty needy persons availed themselves of the chance offered them, and each one set to work to cultivate his or her half

acre. The season is not yet ended, but the results are sufficiently apparent to demonstrate that the plan can be made a success in Denver.

A superintendent was employed in the early part of the work to instruct the gardeners in their work, but after the first few months it went on without further supervision. No records have been kept of the amount of produce raised or the sum realized from what was sold, so that detailed statistics, such as have been obtained elsewhere, are not available for the Denver experience. Mr. Holzman says, however, that "the people have raised a large amount of garden stuff, even though it was put in a month late, including corn, potatoes, cabbage, beets, beans, squash, and other vegetables. They have all had enough to eat, and the most thrifty have sold sufficient to provide them with ready money. Of course, some have been careless, and the results in these cases have not been encouraging; but the majority have done well and show a disposition to make good use of the advantages offered them. Many have stored or will store away a supply for the winter, and just so much of a burden will be lifted from the shoulders of the charity organizations. The results are sufficiently encouraging to justify the pursuance of the plan next year on a larger scale."

**Labor Question : *Agricultural Depression in New York State.***—The New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, under the skilled leadership of its new secretary, Dr. William H. Tolman, has made a new departure in its publications which will be widely welcomed by all students of social questions. The association has begun the publication of a series of leaflets giving the results of special investigations of pressing social questions which it has made. It is indeed a hopeful sign that an organization of such large dimensions as this one, should conceive of its mission as being somewhat more than the doling out of alms even where individual cases have been investigated, and should be willing to launch forth into the field of intelligent inquiry as to the best methods of preventing pauperism as well as of extending relief that enables the recipients to help themselves.

The first leaflet issued is entitled, "An Inquiry into the Causes of Agricultural Depression in New York State."\* This investigation was undertaken on account of the over-crowding of population in New York, and because part of the influx was supposed to be due to unemployment in agricultural districts and the hope that adequate means for the securing of employment to all who applied were

\* New York, September, 1895. Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, 105 East Twenty-second Street. Price 5c.

possessed by the charitable agencies of New York. The resolutions adopted by the Board of Managers of the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, in April, 1894, stated, that

"WHEREAS, The suffering among the wage-earners of this city during the past winter has been but an accentuated form of a chronic evil resulting from the tendency of population to concentrate in the cities, thereby over-supplying the municipal labor markets, and

"WHEREAS, This serious hindrance to the improvement of the condition of the poor exists contemporaneously with an unsatisfied demand for agricultural help in rural localities, therefore,

"RESOLVED, That the effort of intelligent philanthropy should be early directed toward the relief of the congested condition of the cities, by affording every possible encouragement toward settlement in agricultural communities, and that an extensive inquiry into this subject should be made during the coming summer, and that the association appeal to the Citizens' Relief Committee to appropriate from the fund remaining in their hands a sum not to exceed \$5000, to cover expenses in making such an inquiry."

So much for the scope and purpose of the investigation. The services of Mr. Kjelgaard, a Pennsylvania farmer, were secured to carry on a personal investigation throughout the leading farming districts, and Mr. George T. Powell conducted a written investigation with a view to securing information chiefly from farmers, but also from other classes, on the same points that Mr. Kjelgaard had been instructed to investigate. The results, as tabulated in this report, are grouped about eight leading questions:

1. How much has farming land depreciated in the various localities in the past twenty-five years, and what is the cause or causes?
2. Is there a tendency among farmers and their families to leave their farms and live in towns and cities? If so, what is the cause?
3. Is there an increase in tenant farming?
4. Are farmers gradually reducing their land indebtedness?
5. What rate of interest do farmers pay on notes and mortgages?
6. How many farmers keep accounts and can show some percentage of profit on a fair valuation of their farms?
7. Are the district schools as well attended as in years past?
8. Are the principles of agriculture taught in any form in any of the schools?

The responses to the first inquiry were very unanimous, being without a single exception in the affirmative, and the average depreciation being fixed at about 50 per cent. Among the causes assigned, 25 per cent of the answers indicated low-priced farm products; 15 per cent, opening of new Western land; 10 per cent, high price of labor; 8 per cent, loss of fertility in the soil; while the balance attributed the cause to the scarcity of good farm laborers, taxation, want of tariff protection, over-production, etc.



As to the tendency to leave the farms, Mr. Powell reports that 75 per cent of the replies received by him are in the affirmative. Mr. Kjelgarrrd maintains that 30 per cent of the farmers are anxious to go to the large cities, adding that 86 per cent of their children cannot be induced to follow an agricultural life. The causes assigned to this are: unprofitable farming; greater school advantages; difficulty in obtaining good help (30 per cent of the replies assigned these causes, about 10 per cent to each). Higher wages in the cities and easier living in towns, are also enumerated as causes in 10 per cent of the replies. Very marked discontent with rural life is manifested in many districts.

Replies to the third point of investigation indicated that tenant farming is on the increase, and is apparently spreading rapidly. Mr. Powell reports that 70 per cent of the farmers are not reducing their land indebtedness, and that only 20 per cent are doing so; while Mr. Kjelgarrrd reports that only 14 per cent are making a profit. It seems further that the farmers are not paying more than 6 per cent interest for their borrowed money. Fifty-six per cent of the replies also indicate that the schools are not so well attended as in other years.

Mr. Powell, on the basis of his report, makes many valuable suggestions looking toward an improvement of agricultural conditions; among them, the encouragement of forestry, better cultivation of fewer acres, improvement of country home life, extension of farmers' clubs, increase in number of high schools, etc.

In closing the report, the special committee which had it in charge, recommended to the association to call a conference at an early date for the purpose of laying before the charitable organizations of New York City the resolutions as presented in the report to the intent that some concerted measures may be taken through the State Department of Agriculture, or by additional legislation, to re-awaken an interest in the farming industry and turn the movement of population from the cities to the agricultural districts.

*Labor Bulletin of the United States Department of Labor.*—The Department of Labor at Washington is about to issue a bulletin which will give regular and systematic information respecting labor interests and the particular work of the department from time to time. Those who are familiar with the *Labor Gazette*, published by the labor department of the English Board of Trade, and *Le Bulletin de l'Office du Travail*, published in Paris, will realize how useful such an organ may be in helping students of the labor question to keep in touch with the latest developments. Advices from Washington state that the new bulletin will probably appear the latter part of

this month. It can be obtained through the regular channels for the publications of the department.

*Employment of Women and Girls.*—The past five years have certainly constituted a period of industrial depression in England as well as in the United States. This fact affords a good opportunity for the study of occupations, and of the normal relations of men and women to the various industries in times when the demand for labor is not artificially stimulated. In England there is a census return of occupations, published every ten years, the last report being for 1891. The Labor Department of the Board of Trade made a statistical study of the employment of married women in 1894, and an industrial inquiry made by the Board of Trade in 1886 into the conditions in the cotton, woolen and worsted industries, furnishes additional material for the very interesting study which Miss Collet has made of the "Statistics on Employment of Women and Girls." \*

Some of the results of this inquiry are extremely interesting, and the form in which the figures are given indicates a careful use of statistics. Comparing the year 1891 with 1881, we notice that in 1891 out of 18 occupations, each employing over 1 per cent of the women and girls classified as "occupied," in 1881 or 1891, the employment of women and girls increased in proportion to the population, indicating that in 1891, 812 in every 10,000 women and girls above ten years of age were employed, or 90 more than in 1881. In the other 9 occupations, each employing over 1 per cent of the "occupied" women and girls, 1963 in every 10,000, or 126 less than in 1881, were employed. The remaining occupations, in each of which less than 1 per cent of the occupied women and girls were employed, show 667 in every 10,000, or 73 more than in 1881. The occupations which indicate an increase in the employment of women and girls are: tailoring, millinery and dressmaking, shoemaking, hotel service, lodging and boarding house keeping, sick nursing, drapery, shop assistants, teaching, and the group of occupations described as "grocer: tea, coffee, chocolate making, dealer."

The statistics of employment of married women are the most complete embodied in the report; they indicate a rather large percentage of this class in employment. Thus, for England and Wales, in over 1000 women between 35 and 45 years of age, 86 were classified as both "occupied" and "married," or "widowed," and in London there were 121, while for Central London the number was 240.

An attempt was made in the report to discover whether there was

\* Report by Miss Collet on "Statistics on Employment of Women and Girls." Pp. 152. Price 8d. London: Labor Department, English Board of Trade, 1894.

any indication of a relation between the rates of wages and the employment of married women in the districts under consideration. The cotton trade, covering perhaps the largest area, including a number of large towns for which the census statistics were available, disclosed several coincidences between the different sets of facts. For instance, the large urban districts, like Wigan, Manchester and Salford, where the greatest proportion of cotton operatives were women and girls, are not the districts where the greatest proportion of women and girls were cotton operatives.

The large urban districts where the greatest proportion of women and girls were cotton operatives, are those where the proportion of men and boys who were cotton operatives was the highest. From other similarly observed coincidences, it is inferred in the report that the high percentage of women and girls in the mills, who were shown to be married or widowed, in 1894, in Burnley, Blackburn and Preston, where the percentage of female operatives was the highest, has been due, first, to the higher wages obtainable by women and girls in this part of the cotton district, and second, to the lower wages earned by men in this part of the cotton district, both circumstances rendering women reluctant to give up work after marriage.

*Gain Sharing and Bonus on Production.*—Another report of the Labor Department of the English Board of Trade, which was issued in July, 1895,\* deals with the results of a disposition of profits in industrial life, or, perhaps, we might better say, with systems of remuneration of labor, which are often confounded with profit sharing and are usually discussed under this head, but are really not profit sharing at all, since the amount of the distribution is not directly proportionate to the profits of the concern, nor do the individuals concerned share in the losses.

Six schemes, which differ widely in their details, are discussed at considerable length in this report, and they may be taken to embody the leading features of this type of industrial method. One describes the Yale & Towne gain-sharing system, which was introduced in 1887 into the works of the Yale & Towne Manufacturing Company, at Stamford, Conn., and has already been described by Mr. Henry R. Towne, the president of the company, in a paper read by him before The American Society of Mechanical Engineers. This paper is reprinted together with a letter from Mr. Towne, bringing the results down to date. The second scheme discussed is

\* Report on "Gain Sharing and Certain Other Systems of Bonus on Production," prepared by Mr. D. F. Schloss. Pp. 132. Price, 6½d. London: Labor Department, Board of Trade, 1895.

that in force in a Canadian factory, known as the "Halsey's Premium Plan." It has likewise been described in a paper read before the American Society of Mechanical Engineers by Mr. F. A. Halsey, manager of the Canadian branch of the Rand Drill Company. The remaining examples are taken from English workshops, and the descriptions given are based on facts obtained from the firms in question, partly by correspondence, and partly through visits of agents of the Labor Department.

Some of the conclusions arrived at in regard to the practical application of the plan of premium payment indicate that it has not been free from difficulties and has not always accomplished the result most desired. Mr. Schloss indicates that one of the greatest difficulties is to fix to the satisfaction of both the employer and employed, the standard costs upon which the calculation of the bonus is based. The matter of time or period at which bonus is paid, is also an important consideration. Experience has shown that the smaller the interval allowed to elapse between the completion and approval of the work, and the receipt of the premium to which the workman may be entitled, the more likely is the reward to stimulate his exertions. The system does not do away with the need for careful supervision of the work, as there is a temptation on the part of the workmen sometimes to work quickly and sacrifice quality in order to earn a high bonus.

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